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in point. These collections are particularly valuable for the relations between Mexico and the United States.

Outside the city of Mexico the archives of Guadalajara, Querétaro, and Zacatecas are valuable chiefly for ecclesiastical data; those of Durango, Monterrey, Saltillo, and Chihuahua for political and economic material of a more local character, although containing church records of value. In addition the author mentions the archives of a few minor towns and some private collections, chiefly ecclesiastical. Investigations outside the capital, however, are likely to prove disappointing. As one result of Professor Bolton's work we may hope to distinguish copies and originals more readily and to avoid some of the irritation caused by the excessive duplication of documents in the Mexican and Spanish archives.

ISAAC JOSLIN COX.

Guide to the Materials for United States History in Canadian Archives. By DAVID W. PARKER. (Washington: Carnegie Institution of Washington. Pp. x, 339.)

THE project for a separate building for the Archives of Canada goes back to 1731; but it was not till 1872 that an archivist was appointed and not till 1906 that a separate building at Ottawa was erected for his use. Since then great strides have been made, largely owing to the unflagging enthusiasm of the present archivist, A. G. Doughty, LL.D. At the death of the first archivist in 1902 there were about 3000 volumes of papers under his care; there are now over 20,000. The building erected in 1906 has already become inadequate, and plans are on foot for enlarging it to more than twice its original size. The universities and local historical societies have become interested, and are represented upon an Historical Manuscripts Commission. Copyists are at work in various centres in North America and in Europe, a skilled permanent representative, Mr. H. P. Biggar, has been appointed superintendent in England and in Europe, and many valuable finds are from time to time reported. So rapidly does the work proceed that Mr. Parker has been compelled to add a supplement describing the main additions since 1912. In connection with the work of collecting and centralizing the records of the Dominion, a considerable library of rare pamphlets and maps has been accumulated, and a large collection of engravings and paintings.

Many of the volumes at Ottawa contain not original documents but transcripts. All of these have been carefully collated, and may be fully trusted. Most of them have been calendared in the early annual reports of the archivist, but the calendars, though highly creditable in view of the paucity of resources allowed to the first archivist, and the untrained assistants forced on him by politicians, contain many mistakes, a number of which are pointed out by Mr. Parker. Among the transcripts are copies from the Archives des Colonies of all papers previous to 1763 dealing with French North America (not including Louisiana),

and certain selected documents from the Archives des Affaires Étrangères and the Bibliothèque Nationale. From London have come transcripts of all papers in the Public Record Office dealing with Canada from 1763 to 1840. Of special collections those which have been longest accessible are the Bouquet and the Haldimand Papers (35 and 248 vols.). Bouquet and Haldimand were Swiss soldiers of fortune, who fought on the British side in the Seven Years' War, and afterwards remained in America. Bouquet was prominent in the suppression of the rising of Pontiac, and died in 1765 as governor of Pensacola. His friend and executor Haldimand succeeded him in command in Florida, where he remained till 1773. In 1778 he was again sent out to America as governor-general of Canada, which position he held till 1786. During this later period he had much to do with such questions as the attempt of the French to stampede the habitants, an attempt viewed with mixed feelings by the Continental Congress, with the coming to Canada of the Loyalists, and with the tangled negotiations with Vermont.

Of originals perhaps the most important series is the 539 volumes of governor-general's papers, obtained in 1904. They contain an almost complete set of all the letters and despatches which passed from 1800 to 1867 between the governors, lieutenant-governors, and administrators of Canada and the Colonial Secretaries. Many subjects of great interest to American historians are dealt with in this collection, including the struggles and intrigues with the Western Indians; the War of 1812; the conduct of the federal government and of the border states during the Canadian rebellion of 1837-1838; the various boundary disputes, etc. They may at times be supplemented by an important series of original papers, lately presented by the Earl of Durham, dealing with the year 1838; and by a series of transcripts from the papers of Sir Charles Bagot, British minister to the United States, 1815-1820, and governor-general of Canada, 1841-1843.

Descriptions are also given of the contents of the archives of the various provinces. Of these the most important for American students are those of Quebec, divided into the Provincial Archives, the Judicial Archives, and the Archives of the Archbishopric. In the Archiepiscopal Palace are centred the papers of the various missions, and Mr. Parker occupies forty-seven pages with the calendar of activities extending over two centuries, and over every state in the Union. Mr. Parker does not mention the papers preserved at the sees of the provincial bishops, in which there are said to be a number of scattered papers of more than local interest.

While the greater part of the book is the work of Mr. Parker, the portions dealing with the provincial archives, and with those of Newfoundland, are in the main the work of other scholars, such as Professor C. E. Fryer of McGill University, and Mr. Waldo G. Leland, of the Carnegie Institution.

Mr. Parker and his fellow workers have performed their task with skill and thoroughness, and have given to American historians a con-

venient path to a field of research in which much fruitful work may still be done.

W. L. GRANT.

A Short History of the United States. By JOHN SPENCER BASSETT, Ph.D., Professor of American History, Smith College. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1913. Pp. xiv, 885.)

A ONE-VOLUME history of the United States is likely to appeal mainly to two classes of persons. The student will value it because it gives him a convenient text-book for study or reference, a useful combination of narrative, dates, and names to supplement lectures or guide him in further reading. The so-called general reader, on the other hand, will be drawn to it because of its manageable compass, its comprehensive range, or its literary interest. That the author of such a book should know his subject goes without saying, but his readers will assume that what is said is true rather than novel, and they will not expect to be met by evidences of "research".

To both of these classes of users Professor Bassett's substantial volume will be welcome. The distribution of space accords, in general, with the present tendency to subordinate the colonial period to the period of constitutional development, and, within the constitutional period, to treat relatively at length the events subsequent to the Civil War. Of the forty chapters, eleven are given to the period before 1789; and of these, two relate to the Revolution, one to the "critical period", and one to the making of the Constitution. Of the remaining twenty-nine chapters, twelve are allotted to the period from 1789 to 1861, four to the Civil War, and two to reconstruction; while of the eleven chapters given to the period since 1865, three fall mainly within the years 1865-1877. Opinion will differ, of course, as to whether the close of the Civil War or the close of political reconstruction may best be taken as marking the end of the earlier constitutional epoch; but in the former case approximately one-third, and in the latter about one-fourth, of the volume deals with events well within the recollection of many men now living.

That there will be differences in the handling of different parts of the subject is naturally to be expected. Speaking generally, the chapters on the colonial period are the least successful; they are informing, and the incidents selected are important, but the narrative is greatly condensed, the style is not always easy, and the development of colonial institutions, habits, and modes of thought is unevenly brought out. Throughout the book, too, Professor Bassett touches but lightly the course of constitutional development, in comparison with the attention which he gives to the growth of parties and the expansion of industrial interests. Economic and social matters, on the other hand, are treated with interesting fullness, while on the vexed question of slavery the author preserves admirable detachment, shorn of evasive apology on the